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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 AID-05
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /089 W
----------001107 260910Z /23
O 260758Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7792
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1382

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, DJ, SO, ET, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY ACCUES US OF SCHEMING TO ASSIST
SOMALIA IN ANNEXATION OF DJIBOUTI

1. MARCH 25 EVENING MEDIA AND EASTER MORNING PRESS GIVE WIDE COVERAGE TO TEXT OF MOFA SPOKESMAN ON US PLANS TO ASSIST SOMALIA IN DJIBOUTI TAKEOVER. SPOKESMAN BASES EVIDENCE FOR ACCUSATION ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S FAILURE TO MENTION DJIBOUTI IN HIS RECENT CALL UPON SOMALIA TO RESPECT KENYA AND ETHIOPIA BOUNDARIES PLUS MOOSE VISIT TO MOGADISCIO. FULL TEXT BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTEL, BUT MOST RELEVANT PASSAGES FOLLOW:

2. "ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM RELIABLE SOURCES, THE UNITED STATES IS TO ASSIST THE MOGADISHO REGIME IN CREATING THE CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR THE ANNEXATION, IN SOME FASHION, OF THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI BY SOMALIA. IT HAS NOW BEEN LEARNT THAT
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THE SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN MOGADISHO THIS WEEK BETWEEN SIAD BARRE AND A HIGH-LEVEL US DELEGATION LED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, RICHARD MOOSE, HAVE BEEN CENTERED ON THE FURTHER REFINEMENT OF THIS DEVIOUS SCHEME. WASHINGTON HOPES THAT THE ACQUISITION OF DJIBOUTI BY MOGADISHO WILL CREATE A FACE-SAVING DEVICE FOR ITS PUPPET, SIAD BARRE, WHO HAD DISPATCHED THOUSANDS OF SOMALIS ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE

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IN SOUTH-EASTERN ETHIOPIA WHERE THEY ENCOUNTERED A HUMILITATING DEFEAT."

3. STATEMENT CONTINUES: "IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT ON 15 MARCH 1978 (SIC) PRESIDENT CARTER ANNOUNCED THAT THE PROVISION OF US ARMS TO SOMALIA WAS CONTINGENT UPON THE RENUNCIATION OF CLAIMS BY SOMALIA ON THE TERRITORIES OF ETHIOPIA AND KENYA. IN THIS AS WELL AS IN SUBSEQUENT STATEMENTS BY THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REGARDING SOMALIA'S RENUNCIATION OF CLAIMS ON THE TERRITORIES OF NEIBOURING STATES, ANY REFERENCE TO DJIBOUTI AND SOMALIA'S CLAIM TO IT HAS BEEN CURIOUSLY, BUT CONSISTENTLY MISSING."

4. MOFA AMERICAN DIRECTOR ASKED ME FIRST ON MARCH 11 WHY PRESIDENT CARTER HAD NOT MENTIONED DJIBOUTI IN HIS MARCH 9 STATEMENT THAT "IT WOULD REQUIRE A TANGIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF THE CARRYING OUT OF THIS COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF SOMALIANS AND ALSO A RENEWED COMMITMENT NOT TO DISHONOR THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES OF EITHER ETHIOPIA OR KENYA BEFORE WE WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS WITH THEM ECONOMIC AID OR DEFENSIVE ARMS SUPPLIES." I TOLD BERHANE IN CLEAR TERMS, WITH POLCOUNS PRESENT, THAT I WAS SURE FAILURE TO MENTION DJIBOUTI WAS AN OVERSIGHT.

5. DURING MARCH 13 MEETING WITH PERMSEC DAWIT, WITH POLCOUNS AND BERHANE DERESSE PRESENT, I INITIATED DISCUSSION OF THIS FACET OF US POSITION ON BOUNDARIES AND REITERATED THAT EMBASSY CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS SURE DJIBOUTI WAS INCLUDED. SAWIT PASSED OVER MY ASSURANCES WITH NOT RPT NOT SLIGHTEST INCLINATION OF CONCERN.

6. AS LATE AS MARCH 25, I TOLD BERHANE DERESSE ONCE AGAIN THAT OUR MOVING AHEAD WITH DISCUSSION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IS CONTINGENT UPON SOMALIA'S MAKING CLEAR ITS INTENTIONS NOT TO DISHONOR ANY RPT ANY OF ITS BOUNDARIES.

7. MOFA SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT OF MARCH 25 IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF RENEWED MISCHIEF MAKING, BUT BY WHOM? IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT DAWIT OR BERHANE ARE RESPONSIBLE, BUT IT IS REASONABLE TO COME TO CONCLUSION THAT STATEMENT WAS NOT WITHOUT FIRST INFORMING THEM OR, EVEN MORE LIKELY, THAT IT IS THE WORK OF PERSON OR PERSONS THEY FEAR MORE THAN USG REACTION. AS DEPT IS AWARE, MENGISTU AND BERHANU BAYEH ARE BELIEVED TO STILL BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY, AND UNCERTAIN SOURCES HAVE FOREIGN MINISTER FELLEKE GONE TOO. THEREFORE, FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT COULD BE WORK OF SOMEBODY EVEN IN IMINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC GUIDANCE, AS WAS PROBABLY THE CASE ONCE IN JANUARY. IT IS CLEAR THAT FORCES TOTALLY OPPOSED TO IMPROVEMENT IN ETHIO-US RELATIONS ARE THRIVING IN EPMG.

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8. RECOMMENDATION: THAT I BE INSTRUCTED TO PROTEST THIS FALSE OFFICIAL ALLEGATION (HEADLINED IN SUNDAY'S ETHIOPIAN HERALD AS "AMERICA'S COMPLICITY IN THE PLOT TO ANNEX DJIBOUTI TO SOMALIA EXPOSED") AND THAT IT BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF PRESS IN MARCH 27 DEPT BRIEFING. IN BOTH, MY EARLIER ASSURANCES MIGHT BE FEATURED.
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TAGS: PBOR, MASS, DJ, SO, ET, US
To: STATE DJIBOUTI
Type: TE
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